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Leadership Conference Roundup

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Leadership Conference Roundup

The May 16th SELA Leadership Conference in Atlanta was a rousing success, with paid attendance of 55 members. President Ann Hamilton (pictured below) opened with a welcome and update on association developments. Vice-President Judith Gibbons (second picture below) officially announced that the 2004 biennial conference will be held in conjunction with the North Carolina Library Association at a site to be announced. The morning program also featured an inspirational address from Charles Beard, who spoke on the Paradoxical Commandments of Leadership. As Charles shared, leaders routinely face obstacles, detractors, and critics. Our response to these distractions is the true hallmark of a leader. Members spent the balance of the morning in committee, section and roundtable meetings. After an enjoyable lunch, chairs gave reports. The Executive Board met in late afternoon to conclude the day. The following are selected reports from the day's events.



Reference Adult Services (RASS) Mary Ellen Johnson (Sequoyah Regional Library, Georgia) agreed to serve as chair-elect, and Naomi Sutherland, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, will continue as secretary/treasurer.

Members reviewed evaluations from the section's program in Charleston on Information Literacy, all of which were positive. Members discussed several ideas for programs and presentations at the upcoming joint conference in North Carolina, including mentoring, recruitment, retention, and print versus electronic resources. The section welcomes new members and encourages those interested to join RASS.

- Nancy Noe, Chair RASS

###

Circulation and Reserves Roundtable

Committee members are interested in pursuing the following topics for future programs:

Circulation Public Service Issues--- A program dealing with circulation issues in which members of the audience are asked to discuss each of the issues, followed by a panel presenting their views on the best way to address them.

Circulation---Why circulation is increasing in some libraries and decreasing in other libraries.

Security---Programs dealing with both building and people-related security issues.

Group members discussed circulation issues that they had dealt with recently including:

- Fines and holds on patrons' records
- Interlibrary loans
- Manual and electronic inventories
- Reference items

- Christina Chester-Fangman, Secretary

###

Planning and Development Committee:

Discussion was vigorous and centered primarily on the development of a new 2004-2008 strategic plan for SELA. The initial thought was to circulate the old 1998-2002 strategic plan and ask for input from all members of SELA. This has not worked well in the past however. Two members suggested that we check with other regional associations regarding current directions and

strategic plans, and report to the membership. It was also agreed that members will develop a web-based survey to solicit input for the 2004-2008 strategic plan. Once the survey questions are developed and web survey constructed, a URL for the survey and letter stating the committee's objective will be distributed to all members via e-mail. Additionally, an announcement will be made on the SELA Listserv prior to the survey's distribution, and including contact information for those wishing to use a paper based survey as opposed to the web form. The committee sincerely hopes that this methodology will produce a sizable response and empower the committee to more closely tailor the needs and expectations of SELA's 2004-2008 strategic plan to its participating members.

A tentative timeline for the project is as follows:

- June 15: Begin development of questions and Web based survey.
- July 1: Announce survey through SELA Listserv.
- July 7: Distribute survey via e-mail.
- Aug. 1: Analyze results.
- September/October: Committee member conference call/online/e-mail discussion of results and guidance in strategic plan development.
- October: Publish survey results and planning update in *The Southeastern Librarian*.

Possible ideas for questions that came up at the meeting:

- 1) Demographics: State; Institution type; Active SELA member?
- 2) Why did you join SELA?
- 3) What resources would you like to see SELA provide? For instance: Internships, Job Posting Service, Staff Training, Mentoring, etc.
- 4) What are the top five issues in your library? Budget, Advocacy, Electronic Resources, Staff Training, Mentoring, Leadership Training (other, please elaborate...)
- 5) What issues/roles would you like to see SELA address?

- 6) Can you suggest a way to address these roles? (optional)
 - 7) Are there other committees that you like to see within SELA?
 - 8) Would you be willing to receive your copy of the Southeastern Librarian solely in an electronic/online format?
- Wil Weston, (co-chair)

###

Continuing Education Committee: The Continuing Education Committee would like to organize a program for the 2004 SELA conference on the topic of "Organizing an Annual State Library Association Convention."

The Committee should soon have a website which will be linked to the SELA homepage. This website will be used to host information concerning SELA fellowships. It can be used to advertise the conference session. It also could be used as a forum and an information center for anyone who has and/or is planning to organize a statewide library association convention.

- Joe Freedman, co-chair

###

The Interstate Cooperation Committee

The Committee welcomed UNC-Chapel Hill School of Library Science student Amanda Wilson. Committee discussions included: ways to inform the general membership of the purpose of the ICC; a proposal to sponsor a program at the 2004 Fall Conference; and identification of issues facing member states.

The Committee will explore state projects and plans for the preservation of electronic information, particularly government produced business and Web sites produced only in electronic form.

The Committee will continue its work via email and welcomes input and participation from any member. If you are interested in working with this group please contact one of the co-chairs: Lona Hoover, Mississippi State, at lhoover@library.msstate.edu or Elizabeth Doolittle, Hollins University at edoolittle@hollins.edu

###

University and College Library Section

Members discussed ideas for upcoming Conference programs. The "New Voices" Program, sponsored by UCLS for the past two years, is on the agenda again for the Fall 2004 conference. Sarah Hammill, Florida International University, Vice Chair/Chair Elect will oversee the program. Participation from membership is encouraged. Contact Sarah at hammills@fiu.edu.

The possibility of sponsoring a second program to reach more of the membership was put on the table for discussion. The section will explore two possibilities: Catherine Lee will do follow-up for presentation on new technologies, and Daniel Liestman will do follow-up for presentation on SACs criteria.

Nominations for Vice Chair/Chair Elect, and Secretary for Jan 2004 – Dec 2005 term are being sought. Send nominations to Elizabeth Doolittle at edoolittle@hollins.edu

###

2002-2004 SELA Nominating Committee

Members met and discussed outstanding SELA leaders who committee members believed would be excellent candidates for the offices of President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer. The committee was also mindful of selecting a slate of candidates representing the diversity of our regional association as well as its twelve member states. Potential candidates from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and West Virginia were discussed. All members of SELA are encouraged to make other recommendations to the committee by sending their suggestions to cbeard@westga.edu.

- Charles E. Beard

Via
Bill



John
and

McCree (above) discuss the issues of the day at the May 16 Leadership Conference in Atlanta



Above, left to right: Amanda Wilson, UNC Chapel Hill Library Science student, Cheryl Ballard and Linda Harris convening the African American Issues Roundtable discussion.